

Netherlands
[General
Appendix]
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Strange
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 FROM
HOLLAND,
 BEING
A true Character
 OF THE
COUNTRY and PEOPLE;
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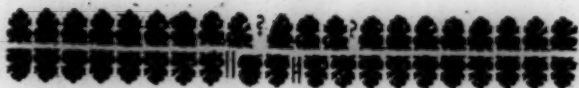
The putting to Death of *De Wit*,
 and his Brother the *Ruward van Putten*,
 by the Burgers at the *Hague*, and how cruelly they stript
 them, cutting off their Eares, Fingers, and Toes, and
 selling them at certain Rates about the Streets, and
 Hanging them up by the Heels on the Gallows.
 Also the killing, wounding, and pulling down the Houses
 of many of the old Magistrates, of *Rotterdam*, and *Delf*.

Sent in a Letter from a Gentleman in *Hol-
 land*, to a Person of Quality in the City
 of *London*.

LONDON, Printed, by E. Crouch. 1672.



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A

LETTER

From a Gentleman out of

HOLLAND,

To his Friend in

L O N D O N.

Honoured Sir,



OU shall please to understand that at my late being at *Utrecht* I receiv'd your Letter, wherein you desire me to give you a Description of the present state of affairs now in *Holland*, and the justness of the War, against so Profidious and Rebelious a People. This Letters of yours I had no time to Answer, till I came to *Wesel*, where it was my fortune to stay for some days; to tell you truth, I could

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not indure to stay any longer amongst their scurrilous Pictures, and Books, against our Greatness, Strength, and Nation, to whom they have been so much beholden (and so much enrich'd themselves by) they are a State not fit to live in the World, by reason of their Treacherous dealings with all Nations, witness their Rebellion to their King, their never keeping Articles with any Prince, their Murderous and Tyrannical dealings with our *English* in the *West-Indies*, as *Ambaina*, *Polleron*, and the *Moloco* Islands, and lately at *Surinam*; their cruelties have made themselves odious, and their Pride hath raised them to that height that their fall must be great.

I shall in the first place give you a short Character of their Countrey, and then of the present affairs there.

Holland at the Creation of the World was no Land at all, and therefore at the first not intended by God or Nature for a dwelling place for men, for it was then, and long after a Sea, and consequently the Habitation of Fishes. Had it been meant a habitation of men, it had not only been such high Ground, that it should not have been continually subject to the Inundations of the Sea, but also been able to have yielded the Inhabitants Bread to eat, and Wood, or Stone to build withal; and the four Elements would not have conspired together to be there all naught, and by being naught unto men, to shew their dislike of Usurpers, that deprive Fishes of their due dwelling places.

Being then at the first wholly Sea, by reason of the flats and shallows thereof, it was partly by Banks ranged of Bavins and Earth, through the labour of Men, and partly by Sandy Downs or Hillocks, driven together by the rage of the Waves, encroached upon and gotten from the Sea, by the old Ancestors of the new Inhabitants. The Country then (except these Banks and Downs) lyeth all as low and level as water hath made it. In it are neither

ther Mountains nor Fountains, nor hath Nature afforded them within the Earth the meanest of the seven Metals, or any Mineral matter at all. But what shall I speak of their want of Mines in the Earth, when they have want of Earth it self; and yet notwithstanding their want thereof, are fain to make use of that little they have for their Felise, and so begin to burn up their Countrey before the day of Judgement.

Grass they have, and that is all the greatest good their ground can afford them, and hereof Butter and Cheese are the Witnesses: But for this one benefite, they want many, which other Countreies have that have this as well as they. To say the truth, I do not know any benefites peculiar to themselves, whereof they can boast, except only two: The one is, their having a Countrey which is the fittest for Rebellion, Treachery and Scisme, in all Christendom: And the other is, that by reason of the great lowliness of their Dwellings, they are the nearest Neighbours to the Devil, of any Nation living upon Earth.

They much affect the Stork, because, as they say, she seeketh not to live in any Countrey that is Governed by a King, and therefore when she comes into *Europe*, she holds her residence most in *Holland*.

The Regiment of a Beast with seven Heads pleaseth her best, because it is a Monster that riseth out of the Sea, and because possibility giveth hope that a Brewer or Basket-maker by vulgar commendation of his Friends, may at one time or other, be raised to the Dignity of one of the *High and mighty Lords of the States*.

One great prerogative they have which they do not bragge of, that is this, That when at the Day of Judgement, the wicked shall say unto the Mountains fall upon us, and to the Hills cover us; those wicked ones in *Holland* (because they have no Hills) shall but need to cut their Banks through, and the Sea it self will straight ways
over-

overwhelm them; for not long before their Rebellion against their King of *Spain*, the Sea broak in, and drowned four hundred and four of their Villages.

If the King of *Spain* had cut their Banks (as he might have done) he had done the World a good turn, by riding them of such ill Neighbours.

I shall give you an account of some of their present bloody and horrid Murders, upon some of their own Masters and Neighbours at Home, shewing what an insatiate and cruel people they are.

Now I shall tell you in breif of the cruel putting to death of the Heer *Johan de Witt*, and his Brother *Ruward van Putten* at the *Hague* in *Holland*, as followeth: On *Saturday* the 20th. of *August* 1672. *Stilo Novo*. In the morning the Court of Justice met, and examined several Articles against *Ruward van Putten*, and finding him guilty of several Crimes, received his Sentence, by which he was declared incapable of holding any employments in the State, and Banished for ever; On the same day the Barber which he had hired to murder the Prince of *Orange*, as he went along the streets, told the people that the said *Ruward van Putten* was guilty, and deserved a severer punishment; which animated the Burgers into a furious Rage, and they beat up their Drums, and draw'd themselves into six Companies, and posted themselves on the *Vyverbergh*, *Busten-Hof*, and before the Prison, and their continued till after five in the Afternoon; about which time they broak open the Prison doors, notwithstanding three Troops of Horse, which were drawn out to prevent any disorders that should happen, which the Burgers kept off with their Pikes, and forced them to retire: being entered the Prison, they pulled forth *van Putten*, and his Brother *de Witt*, (which was come in his Coach to see him,) but the watch prevented him and Brother to go forth, and forced them to retire back in the Prison,

Prison, but afterwards pulled them down, (*van Putsen* being in his Night-Gown, and *de Witt* in a Black Velvet Coat) As soon as they had brought them into the street, the People trampled them under foot, and shot them with Musket Bullets, and cut and mangled them in an unhumane manner, (crying out these be the Rogues that have betrayed us and our Countrey) and so dragging them up and down the streets, cut off their fingers, (which subscribed that perpetual Edict against the Prince of *Orange*.) and their Ears, and Toes, and Members, every one striving to get a piece, which they afterwards sold up and down the Town. an Ear for twenty five stuyvers, a piece of a finger for twelve stuyvers, a whole one for fifteen stuyvers, and a Toe for ten stuyvers, and so proportionably any piece of their Bodies. The people heartily thanking God for it; then they took their mangled bodies, and hanged them up by the heels on the Gallows naked, so furiously were the people enraged against those two Brothers. About midnight some men in disguise came and took down their bodies, and conveyed them privately a way.

At *Rotterdam* and other places they have pulled down the Houses of many of the old Magistrates, wounding and killing some, so are the rude multitude incensed against most of *de Witt's* Party, which were against the Prince of *Orange*.

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